

below.

Claims 1-7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 28-31 and 33-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. (No. Hei 5-344460) in view of Sarbadhikari (U.S. Patent No. 5,477,264).

Claims 1-7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 28-31, 33 and 35-38 are believed to be patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. By this amendment, claims 1-15, 26-30 and 35-38 have been changed to more clearly set forth the present invention. As amended, independent claims 1 and 29 particularly point out that the electronic camera includes a memory for storing two or more tag names providing classification of the images; control means for selecting one of the stored tag names for each of the images; and a processor for assigning selected tag names to each of the images captured by the image sensor, wherein each tag name provides classification of two or more captured images. Further, as set forth in amended claim 1, the electronic camera includes means for generating an image file including the digital image data corresponding to the captured images and a separate tag name file for each selected tag name; and a removable memory for storing each of the image files into the tag name file corresponding to the selected tag name, wherein two or more tag name files are stored and each tag name file stores two or more image files. Likewise, the electronic camera as set forth in amended claim 29 additionally includes means for storing the digital image data in image files; and means for storing each of the image files into a tag name file corresponding to the selected tag name, wherein two or more tag name files are stored and each tag name file stores two or more image files. The electronic camera as set forth in amended claims 1 and 29 also includes means responsive to the single computer initiated request for identifying a particular tag name for transferring all of the image files stored in the corresponding tag name file to the external computer via the cable interface.

Similarly, the method of amended claim 30 includes storing two or more tag names providing classification of the images; selecting, by a user control, one of the stored tag names for each of the images; and assigning the selected tag names to each of the images before the images are captured by the electronic camera, wherein each tag name provides classification of two or more images. The method also includes generating, by a camera processor, an image file including both the digital image data corresponding to the captured images and a separate tag name file for each selected tag name; and storing each of the image files into the tag name file corresponding to the selected tag name, wherein the camera stores two or more tag name files with each tag name file storing two or more image files. The method further includes identifying, in response to a single computer initiated request, a particular tag name and transferring all of the image files stored in the tag name file

corresponding to the identified particular tag name to the external computer via the cable interface.

Yamada et al. is directed to an electronic camera that records images on a floppy disk and displays the images using classification codes. In particular, the camera designates classification codes for each image and records the classification codes in a specialized queue disk track. The images stored by the Yamada et al. camera which correspond to a particular classification code are transferred from the floppy disk via a CPU to a reproduction unit internal to the electronic camera. Thus, such communication takes place completely within the Yamada et al. camera.

Yamada et al. do not disclose the features set forth in amended claims 1, 29, and 30. Specifically, Yamada et al. fail to disclose or suggest assigning selected tag names to each captured image, wherein each tag name provides classification of two or more captured images, generating an image file including the digital image data corresponding to the captured images and a separate tag name file for each selected tag name, and storing each of the image files into the tag name file corresponding to the selected tag name, wherein two or more tag name files are stored, with each tag name file storing two or more image files. Further, Yamada et al. do not disclose or suggest means responsive to a single computer initiated request for identifying a particular tag name for transferring all of the image files stored in the corresponding tag name file to an external computer via a cable interface. In fact, Yamada et al. do not teach or suggest responding to a request to transfer images from a camera to a computer, or to any separate device at all.

Sarbadhikari is used by the Examiner to show the downloading of enhancement files over an interface. These enhancement files are directed at improving the processing capability of the camera and are loaded from the computer into the camera. That is, as acknowledged by the Examiner, the direction of image transfer is from the computer to the camera. This is the opposite direction of transfer that occurs in the present invention. Additionally, Sarbadhikari does not at all discuss selective downloading of images from the camera to the computer. In contrast to the Examiner's assertions, Sarbadhikari does not teach a camera with selectable categories. Further, Sarbadhikari does not teach or suggest image classification using tag names. Therefore, Sarbadhikari adds nothing to Yamada with respect to the features of the invention discussed above. Accordingly, it is submitted that the invention of independent claims 1, 29 and 30 distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is requested.

By this amendment, claim 34 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 34 under §103(a) is believed to be moot. The remaining dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are believed to be

patentable over the prior art for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claims 8, 11, 14 and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. in view of Sarbadhikari, further in view of Yoshida (U.S. Patent No. 5,515,101).

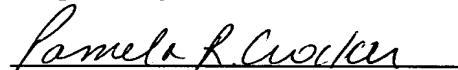
Claims 8, 11, 14 and 26-27 depend on amended claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to amended claim 1.

If the Examiner has any remaining informalities to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such informalities.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned **"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."**

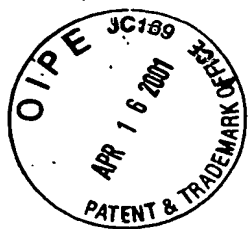
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-15 and 26-30 have been amended as set forth below:

1. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An electronic camera for capturing images representing a variety of subjects and for providing captured images to an external computer in response to a single computer initiated request, wherein the electronic camera is interconnected to the external computer via a cable interface, said camera comprising;

an image sensor for capturing the images;

a converter stage for converting the images into digital image data;

a memory for storing [a plurality of categories] two or more tag names providing classification of the images [by subject];

control means for selecting one of the stored tag names for each of the images;

a processor [having the capability of] for assigning the [plurality of categories] selected tag names to each of the images captured by the image sensor, wherein each [category] tag name [providing subject] provides classification of [one] two or more captured images;

[a user control for selecting one or more categories for the images before the images are captured by the image sensor; and]

means for generating [an output image signal comprising] an image file including [both] the digital image data corresponding to the captured images and [separate category data including the one or more categories selected by the user control, wherein the category data is separately accessible for each image apart from the image data] a separate tag name file for each selected tag name;

a removable memory for storing each of the image files into the tag name file corresponding to the selected tag name, wherein the removable memory stores two or more tag name files with each tag name file storing two or more image files; and

means responsive to the single computer initiated request for identifying a particular tag name for transferring all of the image files stored in the corresponding tag name file to the external computer via the cable interface.

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2. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the memory is firmware and the [categories] tag names are default

categories stored in the firmware.

3. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 2 wherein the [user] control means includes a status display for showing the default categories and the [user] control means selects a particular one of the default categories from those displayed on the status display.

4. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 3 wherein the [user controls] control means includes a first control interface for cycling through the default categories one-by-one and displaying each category individually, and a second control interface for selecting a displayed category.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the [one or more categories] tag names included in the output image data is associated with the digital image data in a distinct file location.

6. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the [one or more categories] tag names included in the output image data is overlaid into the image data.

7. (TWICE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the camera further comprises a signal port for receiving externally generated user customized tag names [categories], and wherein the processor also stores the externally generated user customized tag names [categories] in the memory and the [user] control means is further capable of selecting a particular one of the externally generated user customized tag names [categories].

8. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 wherein the externally generated [categories] tag names are alphanumeric names.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 wherein the signal port also receives externally generated text strings for one or more of the [categories] tag names, and wherein the processor also stores the text strings in the memory with the [one or more categories] tag names.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 wherein the signal port also receives externally generated graphics images for

one or more of the [categories] tag names, and wherein the processor also stores the graphics images in the memory with the [one or more categories] tag names.

11. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 9 wherein the means for generating an [output image signal] image file overlays the text strings into the digital image data.

12. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 10 wherein the means for generating an [output image signal] image file overlays the graphics images into the digital image data.

13. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the memory stores a plurality of default [categories] tag names providing a default classification of the image by a set of codes, and wherein the camera further comprises a signal port for receiving externally generated [categories] tag names, the processor stores the externally generated [categories] tag names in the memory, and the [user] control means preferentially accesses the externally generated [categories] tag names when they are stored in the memory.

14. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 13 wherein the processor includes date and time information with the externally generated [categories] tag names.

15. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An electronic imaging system using an electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 in combination with [a host processor] the external computer, wherein the [host processor] external computer provides the externally generated user customized [categories] tag names to the signal port.

26. (ONCE AMENDED) An electronic camera as claimed in claim 7 wherein the signal port connects to [a] the removable memory card.

27. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An electronic imaging system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the signal port connects to [a] the removable memory [card], and the [host processor] external computer provides the externally generated user customized tag names [categories] tag names to the signal port by writing the categories into the removable memory [card].

28. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An electronic imaging system as claimed in claim 15 wherein [a cable connection] the cable interface is provided between the signal port and the [host processor] external computer, and the [host processor] external computer provides the externally generated user customized [categories] tag names over the cable interface to the signal port.

29. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An electronic camera for capturing images representing a variety of subjects and for providing captured images to an external computer in response to a single computer initiated request, wherein the electronic camera is interconnected to the external computer via a cable interface, said camera comprising;

an image sensor for capturing the images;

a converter stage for converting the images into digital image data;

a memory for storing two or more tag names [a plurality of categories] providing classification of the images [by subject];

control means for selecting one of the stored tag names for each of the images;

a processor [having the capability of] for assigning the [plurality of categories] selected tag names to each of the images captured by the image sensor, wherein each [category] tag name [providing subject] provides classification of [one] two or more captured images;

[a user control for selecting one or more categories for the images before the images are captured by the image sensor];

means for storing the digital image data in image files; [and]

means for [grouping] storing each of the image files [according to the plurality of categories] into a tag name file corresponding to the selected tag name, wherein two or more tag name files are stored and each tag name file stores two or more image files; and

means responsive to the computer initiated request for identifying a particular tag name for transferring all of the image files stored in the corresponding tag name file to the external computer via the cable interface.

30. (AS TWICE AMENDED) A method using an electronic camera for capturing images representing a variety of subjects and for providing captured images to an external computer in response to a single computer initiated request, wherein the electronic camera is interconnected to the external computer via a cable interface, said method comprising the steps of:

storing [a plurality of categories] two or more tag names providing

classification of the images [by subject];

selecting, by a user control, one of the stored tag names for each of the images;

assigning [at least one of the plurality of categories] the selected tag names to each of the images before the images are captured by the electronic camera, wherein each [category providing subject] tag name provides classification of [one] two or more images;

capturing the images with the electronic camera;

converting the images into digital image data; [and]

generating, by a camera processor, an [output image signal comprising in] image file including [both] the digital image data corresponding to the captured images and a separate tag name file for each selected tag name [separate category data including the one or more categories selected by the user control, wherein the category data is separately accessible for each image apart from the image data];

storing each of the image files into the tag name file corresponding to the selected tag name, wherein the camera stores two or more tag name files with each tag name file storing two or more image files; and

identifying, in response to a computer initiated request, a particular tag name and transferring all of the image files stored in the tag name file corresponding to the identified particular tag name to the external computer via the cable interface.

Claim 34 has been deleted.

Claims 35-38 have been amended as set forth below:

35. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic camera according to claim 1 wherein the [at least one particular category] tag name is selected on the computer.

36. (TWICE AMENDED) The electronic camera according to claim 35 wherein the [computer is interconnected to the electronic camera via a cable interface, and wherein the plurality of categories] tag names are communicated from the electronic camera to the computer via the cable interface, and the at least one particular [category] tag name is selected on the computer and downloaded to the electronic camera via the cable interface.

37. (ONCE AMENDED) The electronic camera according to claim 29 wherein the [at least one particular category] tag name is selected on the computer.

38. (TWICE AMENDED) The electronic camera according to claim 37 wherein the [computer is interconnected to the electronic camera via a cable interface, and wherein the plurality of categories] tag names are communicated from the electronic camera to the computer via the cable interface, and the at least one particular [category] tag name is selected on the computer and downloaded to the electronic camera via the cable interface.